

Aptebbongises / December 2016

Top Photo: The Bourbonnais Cabin during winter. The cabin is located next to the Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Tribal member sets sail



Bertrand family member Brandon Savory checks in from his trip around South America

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Symbolism behind the CPN tribal seal



Learn how each piece of the tribal seal stands for a significant piece of Potawatomi heritage and history.

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# Citizen Potawatomi Nation sues Indian Health Service over unpaid costs

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has sued Indian Health Service over nearly \$800,000 in costs associated with the operations of its health services, including the facility costs at the tribes’ health clinics, behavioral health center and wellness center.

Treaty obligations require the federal government to provide medical care to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and it does so through the Indian Health Service. The federal government may enter into a contract with a tribal government to provide those services, which it would typically be obligated by law to provide. CPN has contracted with Indian Health Services to operate tribal health services since 1998.

“The tribe has taken on the responsibility of the federal government to provide health services and is owed for the costs associated with providing those services,” said Lloyd Miller, who is the counsel for the tribe on this matter.

“The government owes what it owes under the contract,” added Miller. “It’s not a blank check. The amount must be reasonable.”

Prior to a 2012 decision by the United States Supreme Court, and congressional action in 2014, Indian Health Service was not fully funded. Budget shortfalls meant that many tribal health clinics were without the funds necessary to provide adequate care.

“Everything changed in 2015,” said Miller. “Before, Indian Health Ser-



CPN Health Services are open to all Native Americans in the CPN jurisdiction despite the refusal of Indian Health Services to pay for the costs.

vice hadn’t paid even what they thought they owed because they didn’t have the funds. Tribes didn’t seek funding for things like facility costs because they weren’t even getting what they should have in direct care dollars.”

A [recent NPR article](#) called Indian Health Service chronically underfunded; noting that IHS receives a set amount of funding regardless of how much care is needed. According to a [report](#) from the National Congress of American Indians the spending per patient in 2013 for patients receiving care from IHS facilities was \$2,849 per person, compared to \$7,717 for health care spending nationally. This is despite the fact that Native Americans typically suffer from diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and can-

cer at rates higher than any other race or ethnicity.

“Prior to 2015, we’d taken funding for administrative and facilities costs from the overall budget,” said Rhonda Butcher of the CPN Office of Self-Governance. “That meant a decrease or limit in the services we could offer.”

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has increased its health services to meet the growing demand for healthcare in Oklahoma. The Affordable Care Act and a decrease in state funding has lead more Native Americans to seek care at tribal facilities. In 2015, CPN provided 133,926 physician visits, 7,245 dental visits and filled more than 200,000 prescriptions.

# CPN decorates tree for Red Earth Treefest

Tribal members and employees decorated a Citizen Potawatomi Christmas tree for the second annual Red Earth Treefest in downtown Oklahoma City. Treefest is an event to celebrate the diverse Native American tribes in Oklahoma during the Christmas season.

“Last year we presented our first Red Earth Treefest to the city and state - and the public loved it,” said Teri Stanek, president of the non-profit Red Earth board of directors. “I know our guests will thoroughly enjoy the Christmas trees featured at Treefest, adorned with beautiful ornaments that represent our tribal cultures so well. This year many of the tribes created additional ornaments that we will offer for sale to the public.”



A sweetgrass ornament on the CPN tree.

Continued on page 3



# Tribal newspaper staff takes home four awards at Native American Journalism Association conference

The staff of the tribal newspaper of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the *Hownikan*, recently picked up four awards at the annual Native American Journalism Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The newspaper’s impressive visuals, specifically those photos captured by staff photographer Bo Apitz, resulted in two first place

finishes. Apitz took home the top awards for both the best print news photograph and best featured print photograph categories for monthly and semi-monthly publications.

Trey DeLonais, who is responsible for many of the graphics and overall page layout of the paper, won third place in the best print layout category for monthly and semi-monthly publications.

The paper also took second place in the semi-monthly and monthly print publications for general excellence.

NAJA received more than 600 entries and recognized only 200 winners overall.

The Native American Journalists Association serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich jour-

nalism and promote Native cultures.

For more than 30 years, NAJA has remained committed to increasing the representation of Native journalists working in media, while encouraging both mainstream and tribal media to attain the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and responsibility.



*Bo Apitz earned nest news photo for this picture from the July 2015 Hownikan.*



*Bo Apitz earned nest news photo for this picture from the September 2015 Hownikan.*

# CPN gives to Maud Public Schools music department

Maud Public School students are able to participate in a newly-formed school band because of a generous donation from Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

“We were extremely excited to return the music program to our school in 2015-16,” Maud Public Schools Superintendent Jerry McCormick said. “The music program has provided more extracurricular opportunities for our students as well as enhanced school spirit and community involvement. CPN has also donated 30 hand drum kits which requires our students to make the drums. What a great cultural experience!”

CPN donated \$1,560 which enabled Maud to purchase music curriculum for the entire school and will allow students greater accessibility in connecting with music through technology. In addition to assisting with the music program, CPN has also given the school district two maintenance trucks, a mini bus, a forklift, a generator, classroom supplies and a \$10,000 donation to repair lights at the softball field.

“In a period of time in which all schools in Oklahoma have suffered



*Danyele Minton leads the band at Maud High School.*

greatly due to loss of funding, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been very gracious in their giving to Maud Public Schools,” Superintendent McCormick said. “The generosity of Citizen Potawatomi Nation has allowed us to expand the educational experiences and opportunities of our students of which we are forever grateful.”

“Starting a band program is giving students who have no other outlet

an option,” Maud Band Instructor Danyele Minton said. “Being in a band has challenges and rewards which are different than being involved in sports programs. Students are responsible for pushing themselves while simultaneously learning how to work as a unit. There is no bench in band, so each student has to uphold their part. Every part is equally necessary and important.”

Although the band is only in its second year of existence and making

great progress, there is more to be done. The school administration is proud of their 30 students participating in the program, but up to three of them share one instrument.

“One of the main challenges we are facing is having enough instruments to serve the students who have an interest in band,” Minton said. “We are now primarily lacking in quality percussion instruments, specifically auxiliary percussion instruments like crash cymbals, tambourine and triangle.”

People can help schools like Maud by donating gently-used instruments to a school music program in their hometown and can also receive a tax deduction for the donation.

If an Oklahoma student needs financial assistance to afford a band instrument, the CPN Employment and Training Department could help. To learn if a student qualifies for the Johnson O’Malley scholarship, please visit [cpn.news/omalley](http://cpn.news/omalley).

# CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CHOICE ACCOUNT

We want to hear from you about owning a CPN Choice Account through First National Bank and Trust Co. Take our short online survey at [cpn.news/CPNChoice](http://cpn.news/CPNChoice)



# Tribal youth attends final White House Tribal Nations Conference of Obama Administration

By Trae Trousdale

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference and the White House Tribal Youth Gathering as a delegate from Citizen Potawatomi Nation. My experience in Washington D.C. was unlike any I have ever had.

While there, we heard from various tribal leaders, tribal youth, secretaries in President Obama's cabinet, and from the president himself. It was exciting to hear about different issues that Native Americans are facing. There was a reception at the White House on Sunday afternoon. Chance Rush and Billy Mills were the keynote speakers that night, but my favorite thing was the cupcake with the presidential seal that was given to all in attendance.

Following the reception, I was able to take my grandmother, who was my chaperone, to the George Wash-

ington University campus where I showed her my dorm room and my classroom from the INSPIRE Native Youth Program.

At the Tribal Nations Conference, there were a few panel discussions with the secretary of the interior, the director of the environmental protection agency, and the secretary of education, just to name a few. At lunch, I was able to locate Mrs. Eva Marie Carney, the CPN District 2 legislator, and had the opportunity to introduce my grandmother to some of the individuals I had met during the summer.

There were more panel discussions between tribal leadership, tribal youth from across the country and the secretaries of agriculture and housing and urban development. To top off the afternoon we were addressed by President Obama! Following the president's speech, we were released for the evening and Mrs. Carney, my grandmother, and I headed down to the National Museum of the Ameri-

can Indian, where Mrs. Carney and I were able to show my grandmother the Potawatomi Treaty exhibit. Following our educational excursion we went to dinner at Old Ebbit Grill and headed back to our hotel room.

At the Tribal Youth Gathering the next day, we were addressed by various cabinet secretaries, the special assistant to the president and multiple agency directors. All of their speeches concerned tribal youth, and we were allowed to ask questions and provide feedback. The highlights of the day were hearing from the Chief of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and having the opportunity to teach the secretary of the interior and the surgeon general traditional dances. Attending the conference and gathering at the White House exposed me to situations I do not face on a daily basis, furthered my education of Native American issues, and prepared me to help guide the future of Citizen Potawatomi Nation.



Trae Trousdale

## CPN Veterans report: December 2016



By Daryl Talbot, Commander  
Bozho,

I have been informed of a service for veterans that could be of great benefit to many.

Have you had an appeal to a Veteran's Administration benefit denied by the Board of Veterans' Appeals? If so, you probably have the right to appeal that decision. An attorney, Legislative Director Carol Wild Scott, Esq., has offered her assistance without charge. The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program is dedicated to provid-

ing every qualified veteran and their family with free legal representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

*Their services are 100 percent free. No one from the Pro Bono Program will ever ask you for money.*

You have 120 days from the mailing date your BVA decision to file an appeal. You won't get an extension, so you have to act fast.

### How to file an appeal:

1. Go to the Court's website  
[www.uscourts.cavc.gov/appeal.php](http://www.uscourts.cavc.gov/appeal.php)

(or call the Court at 202-501-5970 and request forms 1 and 4).

2. Complete the Court's Form 1 – "Notice of Appeal." <http://cpn.news/vetclaims>

3. There is a \$50 fee to file. You can ask the Court to waive the fee by filing the Court's Form 4 - "Declaration of Financial Hardship."

4. Mail your completed form(s) to:

Clerk of the Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals  
for Veterans Claims  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20004-2950

Phone: 202-501-5970  
Fax: 202-501-5848  
e-submission@uscourts.cavc.gov  
(Note: Forms 1 and 4 must be attached as separate PDF files if you file both at the same time.)

### Special case notice:

If you are getting close to the deadline, you can simply print your name, address and telephone number on a piece of paper and write: "I want

to appeal my BVA decision dated \_\_\_\_\_."

Then mail or fax that paper to the court. *(The postmark will be the filing date, so don't use FEDEX or UPS under these circumstances!)*

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions you can call toll free at 888-838-7727. This information was passed to me by District 3 Representative, Bob Whistler.

*Migwetch.*

Our CPN Veterans Organization's Christmas and Thanksgiving Dinner will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016 in the North Reunion Hall at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

### Red Earth continued...

Staff members from the education and public information departments decorated the tree with culturally-significant ornaments, including medicines, birch bark canoes, mocasins and eagles from the CPN Eagle Aviary. The Potawatomi language and Great Lakes culture were incorporated into the ornaments, as

well as traditional regalia on the tree topper.

"Everything on the tree has some kind of cultural relevance to our nation," CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek said. "One of the main differences between our tree and the others is our use of purple. It is a very important color for our tribe because of the trailing arbutus, or mayflower. This is a great op-

portunity for the public to see the differences between each of the tribes participating."

There are more than 15 trees representing different tribal nations, including CPN's nearby neighbors the Absentee-Shawnee, Sac & Fox and Seminole. Some of the ornaments made by the tribes will be for sale to visitors, but the event is free to the public.

To see Treefest for yourself, visit Red Earth Art Center at 6 Santa Fe Plaza, Oklahoma City on Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until January 13, 2017. There will be special viewings on December 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://www.redearth.org/events/treefest/>.



# Q&A with Rekindling 7 Generations program participant Anna Rhodd Brimm

By Lakota Pochedley, CPN Cultural Education Specialist

This month I wanted to give you a first person point of view from one of our program participants, Anna Rhodd Brimm. She is a member of the Rhodd family and has Citizen Potawatomi, Ponca and Sac & Fox tribal affiliations. Currently a student at Konawa High School, she hopes to graduate and attend to St. Gregory’s University or another great college and become a veterinary technician.

We encourage everyone to like our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/R7Gen/> to stay up to date about all our workshops, classes, and community events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lakota Pochedley at [Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org](mailto:Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org) or 405-878-5830. All our programs are Potawatomi and Native preference.

Migwetch!

**What does being Potawatomi mean to you?**

“It means a lot to me because as I learn more about my culture and heritage I am able to share it with my younger relatives so our traditions continue to live on. Knowing more about my culture makes me a stronger person and know myself better.”

**Why did you get involved with Rekindling 7 Generations (R7G)?**

“I got involved with R7G so I could meet other Native youth to learn more about our cultural traditions.”



Anna Rhodd Brimm at the 2016 Miss Potawatomi contest during the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations.

**What is important about R7G?**

“It’s important because we are keeping our Potawatomi traditions alive, and it allows us to share our different Native cultures with fellow Native youth. It’s important to remember all the different aspects of our culture, like our traditional games, sports and foods. It is important to visit with other Native youth so we can learn about all our cultures and traditions, especially living here in Oklahoma. When we get to share our cultures, we can understand each other’s backgrounds, it brings us closer together, and it creates a shared respect for everyone’s traditions because you can remember, ‘So-and-so told me about that and that makes sense now.’ R7G creates an open space so

all of us can work towards keeping our traditions alive and supporting each other while we do it.”

**Do you think it's important to include all generations for cultural education programs? Why?**

“Yes, it is important because then our families know what we are doing and also they can learn with us. I think it is important to get our families and communities involved with everything we are doing.”

**Why is family and community important to you?**

“My family and community are important because without their help our traditions wouldn’t survive. My

family and community helped me start learning about my culture and keep encouraging me to learn more things!”

**What has been your favorite part about R7G?**

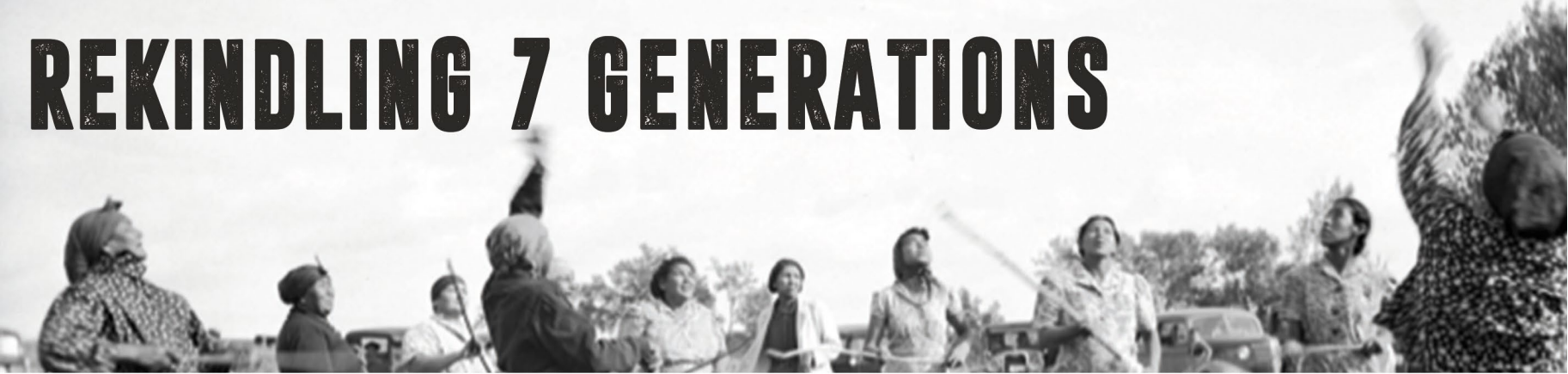
“I love learning everything, especially learning how to bead our turtle medallions and cook meals that include traditional Potawatomi foods like squash casserole and *menom-in* (wild rice) and berries. I enjoy getting to meet new friends. I have been able to meet friends from all over central Oklahoma at the Native Sports Workshop, and I was able to meet other Potawatomi friends at the Gathering through the Youth Summit and running for Potawatomi Princess. I have also been able meet a lot of Native youth through United National Indian Tribal Youth as a member of the Etem Omvlkusen UNITY Council. R7G has helped me get more involved with my community, and has made me a more outgoing person.”

**What are you looking forward to with R7G?**

“I look forward to learning more about myself, culture, and language. I am excited to start learning how to sew and working on my ribbon skirt. I look forward to meeting more Potawatomi and Native youth, and also encourage them to participate in R7G!”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 5, CHC, 6-7:30PM – Adult/Child Cultural Class
- December 7, CHC, 6-7:30PM – Shawnee Area, Boys’ Drumming and Girls’ Talking Circle
- December 9, Konawa Schools, 3:30-5PM – South Pottawatomie County, Boys’ Drumming and Girls’ Talking Circle
- December 26-30, CHC, 9-4PM – Winter Arts Workshop, Ages 8-15
- Family Community Day, TBA, follow Facebook page for more information



### CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER - SHAWNEE AREA

**GIRLS’ TALKING CIRCLE**  
EVERY 1ST WEDNESDAY 6-7:30PM

**BOYS’ DRUM CIRCLE**  
EVERY 1ST WEDNESDAY 6-7:30PM

**COMMUNITY FAMILY DAY**  
TBA EACH MONTH

**GIRLS’ TALKING CIRCLE**  
EVERY 2ND FRIDAY 3:30-5PM

**BOYS’ DRUM CIRCLE**  
EVERY 2ND FRIDAY 3:30-5PM

### KONAWA SCHOOLS - SOUTH POTT. COUNTY



# A gifted loom turns into full-time hobby for Potawatomi beadwork artist

Gift giving is a longstanding tradition in Native American culture. Communities view it as a means of sharing and survival, a practice that still holds importance to this day. For Bourassa family- descendant Laura Hewuse, a simple gift from a family friend sparked a passion and led her to become an artist.

Hewuse was gifted a loom about 12 years ago and decided to bring it to CPN Legislator Roy Slavin's District 1 meeting in Kansas City, which happened to be hosting a craft night. She credits that evening as being when her passion for bead working began.

"My cousin Peggy Kinder once told me that our family needed a beadwork artist," said Hewuse. "Some of the aspects that drive my passion for beading are creating unique pieces, pushing the envelope and bringing the pieces to life through color and tradition."

The first piece she made was a beaded sash for her father, which she gifted to him on Father's Day. The pattern is an old eastern woodlands design which she was inspired to mimic after seeing it in an old photo. Altogether Laura has made about 15 to 20 different pieces including hat bands, hair accessories, storytellers and bandolier bags. All the pieces are custom-made to fit the personality of the person they will belong to.

Out of all those she's made, the women's storytellers are her favorite.

"I love being able to make something beautiful for dancers that helps express who they are," said Hewuse. "I'm currently working on the third storyteller as of now."

A storyteller is a long and elaborately beaded accessory that drapes behind the dancers back and tells a story about them. CPN education director and southern cloth dancer, Tesia Zientek, reached out to Laura in 2014 to have one made.

"What we did was matched her storyteller colors to her regalia," said



Laura Hewuse

Hewuse. "The pattern is based off who she is, her life story, and something special that happened in her life."

The process to start a storyteller for Laura begins by meeting with the person she is making it for and finding out the specifics of the story they want tell.

"I find out their passions in life, who has helped them along the way, pretty much anything about them helps decide what will go into it," said Hewuse.

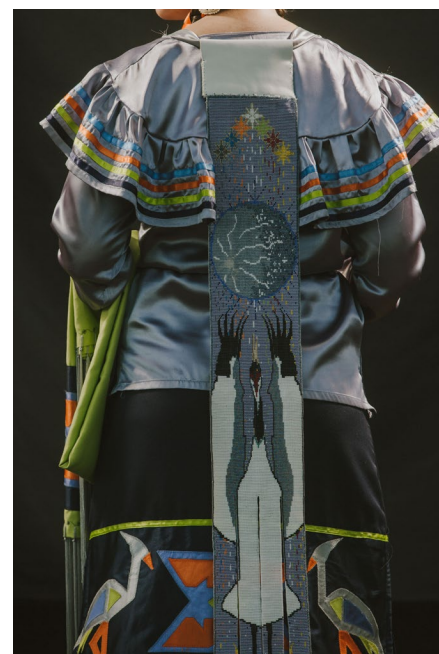
Laura gives the recipient options and helps them decide what will go into the design so that it's a truly deep and meaningful piece. The next step is to figure out what specific story they want their storyteller to portray.

"It's a really hard process; it will take about a month to get the full and final pattern figured out for each one," said Hewuse.

After the final pattern is created, she inputs the design into a computer program on her laptop called BeadTool 4. The program takes the design and develops a row by row pattern that she can follow bead by bead. There are times, however, that she will need to hand-draw a specific part in.

Storytellers are long and elaborate, which makes creating one a tedious and time-consuming process. Each row can take up to 10 minutes, which includes loading the beads on the needle, tightening and running it through the loom

"If I'm having a bad day, I won't work on my bead work," said Hewuse. "I don't want to put that bad energy into a piece, so there's a lot of love that goes into it. If I see a color I don't like, I'll back up 20 rows and change the whole piece because I want it to



be done right. It's frustrating at times but the final product is well worth it."

Her clientele has grown through word of mouth and social media. Currently Laura is involved in four different projects. Her advice for those interested in having a piece made is to not wait until the last minute.

"Start thinking ahead as much as possible and gather up your ideas and expect it be a long and thorough process," said Hewuse. "I like to have at least eight months to create a piece."

Bandolier bags take up to eight months to one year, depending on how long the strap is, and a storyteller can take six to nine months, depending on the length.

As Hewuse grows as an artist, she continues learning to bead different ways and on different types of material.

"Seeing the two aspects of traditional ways mesh together with modern styles fuels my passion to continue to create," said Hewuse. "My father always told me to always do the best I can and make a name for myself. I think I've accomplished that and can't wait to see where it takes me."



Two of Hewuse's storytellers worn by CPN members.

## Featured archive item: birch bark basket

Pictured is a birch bark basket that has found a home in the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's ethnology collection. The basket, constructed in 2001 from wigwas [birch bark], wishkbemishkos [sweet grass] and gawey [porcupine quills], was originally commissioned as a present for a spiritual leader among the Three Fires communities of Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada. It was designed to honor the leader's clan – the Bear clan – and the various types of food bears eat like strawberries, blueberries and the Coho salmon. The clan's role was to be the keepers or protectors of the medicine.



## VISIT US ONLINE!

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 CPN HOWNIKAN



# CPN Gift Shop features Crane Woman's art

Sharon Catlege, better known as the Crane Woman, is a Potawatomi artist whose work is featured at the Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop. She is a descendant of Delilah Bourassa, daughter of Joseph Bourassa. Catlege sat down with the *Hownikan* and talked about her art.

## What kind of art do you create?

"I enjoy working with different mediums and experimenting with different materials. I started out painting in oils on canvas then I moved to acrylics. I also enjoy watercolor, driftwood, clay, paper, fabric and mixed media paintings. I love vibrant colors and textures and enjoy painting a variety of subjects, but mainly people, trees and birds.

"I took a gourd workshop at the Ma-bee-Gerrer Museum about six years ago and enjoyed it so much that I started making gourd art. I love working with gourds because our ancestors used gourds to hold water, food, seeds, medicine and as musical instruments. Decorated gourds were used in ceremonies and played an important part in stories, including the creation stories."



*Three different pieces made by Catlege titled Grandmother sculpture, Coyote feathers and shop shifter.*

## What inspires you to create your art?

"I am inspired by the ancient wisdom and cultures of our ancestors, nature and my travels. Many of my paintings come from my photographs. My wish is to creatively express the beauty I see around me and its connection to our Earth Mother.

"Growing up in rural Oklahoma, visiting grandparents who lived on their allotment and listening to stories of our ancestors have peaked my interest and my continual research in, not only our CPN history, but Native American history."

## Where can people view and purchase your art?

"I have some gourds and paintings for sale at the gift shop and Birds of a Feather Art Gallery on Main Street in Shawnee, Oklahoma inside The Owl Shoppe Cafe. I also have gourds on display at the CPN Housing Department and CPN West Health Clinic next to the Grand Casino. My gourds are signed as 'Crane Woman' because my Potawatomi name *Jejakwe* means Crane Woman."

## What does being Citizen Potawatomi mean to you?

"Being Citizen Potawatomi means having connections to our cultural traditions and history. Knowledge of our ancestry enables us to pass on this information to our future generations. I am thankful to CPN and our cultural heritage center for preserving our treasures and creating a renewed interest in our culture."

*Catlege's work is available at the gift shop or online at [giftshop.potawatomi.org](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org).*

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# TRIBAL ELECTION NOTICE

The office of tribal chairman and CPN Legislative Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 are up for election on CPN Election Day, June 24, 2017. Those running for the office of tribal chairman must reside in the State of Oklahoma and be 35 years old on Election Day. Candidates for the legislative districts must reside in the district in which they are running and be at least 18 on Election Day. A map of the tribal legislature can be found at <http://cpn.news/CPNMap>. Candidate filing forms must be in the hands of the CPN Election Committee by no later than 5 p.m. CST on January 11, 2017 to be considered. These declarations must be filed through U.S. Postal Service. Filing forms can be requested by writing to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org). Candidate filing forms will be available starting in November 2016.

TRIBAL ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL ON JUNE 25, 2017, WITH ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS MAILED IN THE SPRING OF 2016. ALL CPN MEMBERS NATIONWIDE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON THE TRIBAL BUDGET ON ELECTION DAY AS WELL AS THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL CHAIRMAN.



# ‘Rainmaker’ honored at the 2016 Woman of the Year awards

Longtime Citizen Potawatomi Nation Self-Governance Director Rhonda Butcher was recognized by *The Journal Record* newspaper as one of Oklahoma’s most influential female professionals. Butcher, nicknamed the ‘Rainmaker’ by Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett for her astuteness in securing federal funding opportunities for tribal programs, has served in her position since 1997, and helped CPN transition into a self-governance tribe.

“The important part of self-governance was always about providing services to our tribal members,” said Butcher. “It is the process whereby we obtain funding from the federal government, prioritize and plan for needed services, and implement programs that serve our people. I’m honored to be recognized for this work on behalf of the Nation.”

Tribal members, employees and neighbors from the community have likely been impacted by Butcher’s work in developing the self-governance office. Whether a patient at the CPN Health Services, a commuter on the streets paved and maintained by the tribal roads department or a

small business financed by the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, the self-governance office under Butcher has been responsible in finding funds for those and many other programs during the past two decades.

“Without her passion, skills and keen intellect applied with consummate skill as a manager, it is difficult to picture what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation would look like today,” said Tribal Chairman Barrett. “Finding money is only part of the job. Managing and monitoring these funds, as well as correct and timely reporting of the grant resources, is the key element to the success of the CPN.”

A registered nurse and former healthcare consultant from Shawnee, Oklahoma, Butcher joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as the tribe prepared to negotiate self-governance compacts with the federal Indian Health Services and Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1998. In the years since Butcher joined the Tribe, CPN Health Services have expanded to two full-service clinics for Native Americans of all tribes, including spouses of Potawatomi and



Rhonda Butcher

CPN employees. She holds an MBA from Oklahoma Baptist University and had previously worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a Medicaid claims appraiser. Prior to that, she worked as a burn center nurse.

Looking back on her long, diverse career, Butcher reflected that an ethos passed on by her grandmother has helped her persevere.

“My personal philosophy is based upon the first passage of the Serenity Prayer written by theologian Reinhold Neibuhr and personified through the life of my grandmother. ‘Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.’”

## Skillings inducted into PBA Southwest Region Hall of Fame

If you’ve attended one of the many professional bowling events taking place in Shawnee, Oklahoma in the past few years, it’s largely because of the work of FireLake Bowling Center Director Chris Skillings. A longtime member of the Professional Bowlers Association, he has worked tirelessly in recent years to bring professional events like the PBA Summer Swing and the PBA FireLake Tournament of Champions to his hometown of Shawnee, Oklahoma. In recognition of these efforts, Skillings was recently inducted into the PBA Southwest Region’s Hall of Fame.

“To be recognized by my peers and friends in the PBA and the southwest region is a huge honor,” said Skillings. “We’ve worked really hard to help develop the sport through partnerships with Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the PBA and our school and amateur bowlers in the Shawnee-Tecumseh area. I’m just happy to see where it is today.”

Skillings graduated from Shawnee High School in 1982, and is a well-known member of the local community. He has been a member of the Professional Bowlers’ Association for almost twenty years, and since 1980 has bowled in the PBA’s Southwest Regional Tour events and other professional competitions. His association with



PBA Southwest Region Hall of Fame inductees Wes Malott, Rick Lawrence and Chris Skillings.

hosting PBA events stretch back to 1984, when as manager of a bowling center in Stillwater, he helped organize and host a PBA competition there. Since then he was helped host events at bowling centers around the area including at Shawnee Lanes, Planet Bowl, the original FireLake Bowl and its successor, FireLake Bowling Center, where he remains director.

“Chris Skillings has always been a supporter of the PBA, since he began managing centers,” said PBA Southwest Region Manager Pete McCordic. “When I became the PBA South-

west Region manager in 1997, Chris has been an integral part of the success of the PBA Southwest Region, hosting many PBA Regional events. He is easily deserving of being inducted into our Region’s PBA Hall of Fame for his contributions.”

In recent years Skillings has promoted large PBA events at the Grand Hotel Casino Resort and FireLake Arena. The 2015 PBA FireLake Tournament of Champions which had nearly one million viewers tune in to the ESPN live broadcast. To date, the FireLake-PBA Tournament of Champions finale was the highest

rated PBA telecast of the broadcaster’s 2015-16 season, and was a 17 percent viewer increase over the previous year’s tournament.

The 2017 tournament is expected to draw similar numbers and will take place on February 17, while details for a summer tournament continue to develop.

Skillings was a longtime bowler and member of the PBA. A chronic shoulder injury has cut down his time on the lanes in recent years, and he announced his retirement from competition during his induction to the hall of fame.

In addition to his work promoting the sport of bowling, Skillings has had an extensive career in the healthcare sector. In spring 2016, he was named director of CPN Health Services and has served in that capacity, as well as his role as director of FireLake Bowling Center.

“Chris has been an asset to the tribe in many ways in recent years,” said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. “On behalf of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation want to congratulate him on his induction to the hall of fame, it is a well-deserved honor for a great individual.”



# Five years of multimillion dollar growth at the CPCDC

By Shane Jett, Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

Five years ago, I was in Des Moines, Iowa interviewing for an executive position at an insulation company that wanted me to open a manufacturing plant in Brazil. I had no idea of the impending adventure that awaited me back home in Oklahoma. I left Iowa with a promise that I would receive a formal job offer forthwith and a request that I not accept any other job offer before first discussing it with them. After the interview, I took a red-eye flight back to Oklahoma so I could teach a world geography class at St. Gregory's University the next day. As I was preparing my notes for class, I got a call from the tribal chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He had a "business proposal" for me and wanted to meet immediately. I told him where he could find me in the main administration building at St. Gregory's, the one that looks like a medieval castle of red brick.

He had a job offer for me to become the executive director of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. I told him that I had never heard of it. He explained that the CPCDC was a community development financial institution that created jobs in low-income communities that didn't traditionally have access to capital. Their job is to create jobs in these minority communities by providing access to capital.

During my three terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, my

district covered the majority of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's traditional tribal territory. I had never heard of CDFIs, much less the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. I explained that I had just flown in from an interview in Iowa and was waiting for a formal job offer. For the sake of discussion, I asked that if I were theoretically interested in taking the job, when would he want me to start?

Chairman Barrett looked at his watch. It was lunch time. He looked back at me and said with a grin, "Say... one o'clock."

As it turned out, this wonderful job opening and incredible adventure was borne on wings of a scandal. My predecessor had embezzled a quarter of a million dollars by creating fictitious consulting firms to invoice the CPCDC and then authorize the payments to herself. I inherited the broken team left in my predecessor's destructive wake - shell-shocked, betrayed and distrustful. It took the FBI four years to decipher the financial shenanigans, identify co-conspirators, conclude their investigation and ultimately bring charges in federal court. I testified about how the CPCDC serves low-income, minority communities all over Oklahoma and that the embezzlement was not just a quarter of a million dollars from a tribe, but rather was the equivalent of 800 small loans that could make a difference to families in Oklahoma.

I'm so proud to be part of this incredible team. We've come a long way since 2011 and are like a fam-

ily. At that time, we had about \$14 million under management, most of which was for lending money to Native-owned businesses across the U.S. Start-up businesses are very high risk, meaning most banks will not finance them. Even if they would, traditional banks require a 20-25 percent down payment before they will finance. CDFIs are much more flexible than banks are allowed to be, making organizations like the CPCDC a fantastic resource for small business.

We have business loans in the state of Maine, a stone quarry in Washington State, a shrimp processor in Houston, Texas and a chiropractic clinic in Puerto Rico. In 2011, we were the second largest Native-owned commercially focused CDFI in the United States. We have since become the largest financial institution of our kind in Indian Country.

We were the only Native CDFI to be approved for the CDFI Fund's Guarantee Loan Program under the United States Treasury in 2016, and were awarded \$16 million. In October 2016, our team went to Berea, Kentucky to meet with the Secretary of Agriculture who announced that we were a recipient of \$25 million in funding for rural Oklahoma communities.

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation will close this year with funds in excess of \$65 million!

This has been an incredible five years. We have been able to help



Shane Jett

hundreds of clients making a real difference to regular Oklahomans to whom banks have said "no" to their small businesses financing needs. I have learned a tremendous amount about economic development and finance. I have a great team who are dedicated to our mission and some of my closest friends. I love my job, love my team.

I still haven't opened that factory in Brazil. Life has taken many interesting twist and turns. This is not what I thought I would be doing five years ago. Yet here I am. Looking forward to seeing what the next five years have in store.

## Avoid holiday debt with these five steps

By Tina Pollard, CPCDC Consumer Lending Manager

Are you, like most of Americans, afraid of racking up holiday debt? Do you wake in a panic because you forgot in the holiday rush to buy a gift for your mother? Here are a few tips to help avoid a holiday spending hangover and help relieve the stress of the season.

**Create a list:** Write up a list the people who you'd like to buy a gift for and reach out to those individuals for ideas on what they'd like. You can ask them to make their Amazon wish list public or at least give you a few items they want or need. Once you decide what to buy, don't deviate from the list.

**Give of your time:** The holidays are when we usually feel the most generous. However, if financial giving is going to put a strain on your budget, consider giving your time. For instance, instead of contributing to every bell ringer you see, perhaps you can be the one to ring the bell. Nursing homes are an especially lonely time for a lot of our elders, so why not donate a few



Save money this year by only using cash to buy your Christmas presents.

hours to visit with the elders of your community? You never know what you might learn. You will want to call ahead for visiting hours and ask to be connected with someone who would appreciate your company.

**Pay cash:** While it is tempting to buy Christmas gifts with your credit card, it could have long-term consequences. Remember every time you swipe

a credit card, you are agreeing to a loan. If you do not like to carry cash, please consider acquiring a debit card which is accepted anywhere credit cards are. With a debit card you can spend money you already have instead of creating debt that can haunt you all for the rest of the year.

**Make and implement a plan:** This year the plan may be to cut back hol-

iday spending to your available cash supplies or maybe to obtain a seasonal job to pay for the holidays. This is a great time to devise a strategy for next year. Add what you would like to spend for Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, etc. into one lump sum then divide that number by 12 to arrive at the amount you need to save every month. You may be pleasantly surprised with how much further that money will go when you have the funds available throughout the year to take advantage of sales when they become available.

These are just a few ideas to help you develop your own family's holiday spending plan. If you have any questions or need help creating a family budget please feel free to call the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation at 405-878-4697 to arrange a free appointment with one of the CPCDC's three certified credit counselors. If you are not in Oklahoma, we can still help via a telephone appointment. Learn more at [www.cpcdc.org](http://www.cpcdc.org).



FireLodge Tribal Youth update: December 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Youth Coordinator

December has come in like a bear, a baby bear. With the cold weather arriving here, its indoor season at the PLACE.

The Get Native Program started and we are beginning the 10-week Next Generation Program. This is a youth leadership program will build leadership skills applicable to school, family and community.

In December the youth will learn the foundations for a balanced life. The instructions will include developing the power of positive thinking, Native youth wellness and teach about the warrior shield. The youth will learn how to properly recognize and honor their ancestors and themselves. Part of this instruction will be to convey that - and many of our older readers will know this - is that life is a journey.

Our cultural heritage staff will also teach traditional values of Native



Kobe Davis and Mason Carner put together crafts for their fall festival.

youth. After this the youth will make a “My Values” poster to put down on paper their thoughts and ideas to reflect on them later.

While looking forward, we’ll also reflect on the past by teaching the youth about the about the impact of historical trauma on the lives of Na-

tive American people, its effects on attempts to build a successful life and ways to heal from its impact.

Our December program of events will also involve an IQ test, developing self-respect and self-confidence and using conflict resolution techniques. Amanda Champan from the CPN House of Hope will be leading these activities in a 4-week program.

The Get Smart Program will involve those FireLodge participants interested in post-secondary education opportunities the chance to visit several of our state’s colleges. We’ll also continue to offer ACT pre-tests and working with students in the after school homework program.

In the Get Fit Program, we’re beginning a new fitness program that will run until February, and we’ll also be taking trips to Warren Theater in Moore, the Bricktown Snow Slide and Freddie’s Frozen Custard.

December 2016 Graduates

**Cody Austin Parks**  
Allen, Texas  
Family: Pappan  
Allen High School  
High School Diploma

**Liam John Headley**  
Pacific Grove, California  
Family: Melot  
Pacific Grove High School  
High School Diploma

**Iris Holloway**  
Saint George, Kansas  
Family: Navarre/Vieux/Melott  
Wamego High School Tech Center  
High School Diploma

**Sherry Kim Hazelton**  
Midwest City, Oklahoma  
Family: Hazelton  
OKC Community College  
AS in Biology

**Blake Michael Howard**  
Pilot Point, Texas  
Family: Maime/Mitchell  
Texas A&M University  
BS in Petroleum Engineering

**Derek Anthony Cheatwood**  
Friendswood, Texas  
Family: SHOP-WE-TUCK  
Texas A&M University  
BS in Marine Transportation

**Lacey B. Tipton**  
Arkansas City, Kansas  
Family: Neddeau  
Kansas State University  
BS in Bakery Science

**Brian E. Kirk**  
Longview, Texas  
Family: Bertrand  
LSU School of Allied Health Pros  
Masters of Public Health

**Corinn Garrison - Wiley**  
Tecumseh, Oklahoma  
Family: Nadeau  
Troy University  
MS in HR Management

**Candace Schmidlkofer**  
Tecumseh, Oklahoma  
Family: Tescier  
St. Gregory’s University  
MS in Business Administration

**Rene Rowell**  
Dodge City, Kansas  
Family: Mann/Pappan  
Dodge City Community College  
AS in Science of Nursing

**Elisa Kay Singleton**  
Eagle River, Alaska  
Family: Lewis  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
MS in Special Education

**Jesse Robert Gragg**  
McMinnville, Oregon  
Family: Pokagon  
Portland State University  
BA in Applied Linguistics

**Ashley Schooley**  
Wichita, Kansas  
Family: Smith  
Baker University  
BS in Business Administration


**Kirsten J. Casey**  
Sparks, Nevada  
Family: Anderson  
University of Nevada at Reno  
BS in Physics

Rudolph msko janet seksi.  
Kyetnam wastene jash  
Nash ndo-wabma.  
Kyetnam wiske she ked wik  
Jayek gi anet seksiyuk.  
Jak gego gi zhemawan  
Cho gay dagwenmasiwan, ewi chikaswat sek sik  
Ngo dek egi wensiwek Santa egi bye ked ot  
Rudolph ewastek I jash da niga ne bedo nigan yak  
Egi dagwenmawat  
Egi papashkwewat  
Eje widmo wat Rudolph niganе ji igwan  
Rudolph nigan ji igwan  
Rudolph nigan ji igwan

Rudolph the  
Red-Nosed Reindeer  
in Potawatomi

Visit [cpn.news/rudolph](http://cpn.news/rudolph) to see the  
CPN daycare kids sing this song.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS  
FEBRUARY 15



# Bertrand family descendant Brandon Savory sails the world

More than 32,000 Citizen Potawatomi live in countries around the world, each leaving their own unique footprint. One such individual, Brandon Savory, is nearing his second year in such a journey as he sails around the world with two friends and a “cat sized dog” on a vessel named Cool Change. The *Hownikan* caught up with Savory as he was nearing the Amazon River in South America to discuss where he’s from, where he’s been and why he decided to pursue this journey.

## Tell us a bit about yourself in terms of where your hometown is and what you did before hopping on the Cool Change.

“I am a 32-year old Oklahoma boy born in OKC, but just months after my birth, my mother, father, sister and I took to the road. We moved to the Pacific Northwest, then the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and beyond. My mother and father went their own ways in my early years. Mom kept to her drifting ways, moving from town to town and my dad settled deep in woods of Missouri on a 2,000-acre plot of wooded land. This was where I learned to live in the arms of Mother Nature and my father showed me the ways of his Potawatomi spirit. We spent years on end roaming the hills, hunting, trapping and fishing. I wasn’t sure how these skills would become relevant to my life but knew I felt free as a bird in that timber.

“When I was 16, I took the opportunity to try my hand in Hol-

lywood, packed my bag and headed west on a Greyhound bus to Studio City, California. I dreamed of the silver screen. In my down time from auditions and acting classes I fell in love with photography. My focus shifted from being in front of the camera to the magic made behind the lens. I was completely head over heels in love with filmmaking.

“College wasn’t really for me. In my mind I believed that I could learn more just by making films with my team rather than sitting in a class room learning from a professor. We hit the ground running making motorcycle films in 2002 and traveled the world for eight years with our passion for filmmaking guiding the way. It was bliss and I thought this was it for me.

“As we all know, nothing is forever and our band of brothers all went our own ways and the saga came to an end when I was 25. At this time my sister had begun breaking into the production of commercials in Hollywood. When I was ready to branch out of my motorcycle world she welcomed me into the commercial world there in Los Angeles as a camera operator. It quickly consumed my life, I loved it.

“Living in California I spent countless days in the ocean and soon developed a love affair with the sea and the wanderlust experiences she gives. It reconnected me with Mother Nature and rekindled the fire that lit my life up when I was a kid in the timber. My free time now was being spent in the cool waters of the Pacific spearfishing, surfing and just



exploring the sea floor by diving. I would stand at the shore’s edge and look out to that endless blue horizon just wondering. I again felt an overwhelming force that beckoned me further. It came in the form of an all-white sloop on the horizon. I always looked at the early sailors as the original adventurers. So there was only one thing left to do.”

## Did you have training on a sail boat before this?

“I bought my first sailboat in February of 2009 and spent the next seven years sailing the coast of southern California with my dog, lovely girlfriend and my water loving mates. I spent those years learning the craft from a 75-year old man named Captain Bob. He has taught me almost everything he has learned from his 50 years of crossing oceans in sailing vessels. He’s my mentor in many aspects of life now.”

## What makes a guy decide to hop on a 44-foot sloop with two other friends and a cat-sized dog?

“A hunger for life and liberty. In January 2015, I stepped foot on a 1984, 44-foot cutter rig sloop in Fort Lauderdale, Florida named Cool Change. She was perfect for the voyage that lay ahead but was way out of my budget at the time. The owner Gary and I sat around the boat for three hours as I listened to his stories of the places he’s seen with his old sailboat. I was in love with her.

“I flew back to California and before I knew it, a year and a half had passed since I looked at Cool Change. I would send an email to Gary every couple months letting him know that I had been dreaming of sailing his boat around the world and I was saving my pennies. For that year and a half I just lost myself in work and day dreamed constantly of setting my sails and pointing somewhere wild. I returned one day after a job abroad and realized I might have done it. When I got in contact with Gary regarding his vessel he said ‘Yes, I’ve been waiting for you, but you better hurry because the boat show is next



Brandon in a small Saramaccan village in Suriname.

week and if you are not going to buy her then I will surely sell it there.’

“I took a red eye flight to Fort Lauderdale and by 9 a.m. I was standing at the dock gazing in awe at CC’s massive rig again. I saw a grin on her face in that early morning light. When he handed the key to me that day his eyes were filled with joy and sadness all at once. I knew now I had not just bought a boat but I also had been initiated into a very rare and mysterious club of mariners. I now had an obligation to myself, captain Gar and a sweet little girl named Cool Change to embark on the voyage of a lifetime.”

## How can three young guys afford a trip like this?

“I slept on the boat the night I bought it and my mind raced with the thoughts of all the places and experiences Cool Change and I would have together in the years to come. I woke up the next morning knowing that there was a huge shift happening in my life, so I set off for the next several months with a sharper focus and a real drive for embarkment. I flew back to the west coast and started selling, packing and diminishing my life as I knew it. My entire world changed in a matter of months. The car, the motorcycles, the girlfriend, the household and all the clutter that we called ‘life’ all vanished. I was now a man with no ties and a foot-loose feeling of something pushing me onward in that magnetic direct. The one thing from my old life that I wasn’t going to just chalk up was my best mate Peanut. At this time he was only a year and change, but was a born sailor.

“With me throughout the seven years of dreaming this adventure was my mate Scott. He loved sailing with the

same fire as me. My next call was to a friend through filmmaking, Andrew Tomayko. We had worked together in Russia and Australia a few years back and had the same drive and passion for adventure filmmaking. Andrew is one of the most talented filmmakers I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

“We spent the next eight months living and working on Cool Change day and night to outfit her for this voy-

age to us to achieve this goal. It all came through hard work and saving our pennies, but without the kind hearts and guidance from all the amazing people in our lives we would still be tied to that dock.

“It’s not about how much money you have in your pocket but more about the amount of passion you have for something in life. I believe if you work hard enough and stay focused on what you want your life to be,



age. I would leave for work somewhere strange for a couple weeks and return to my boys working away to get the ship ready for a December push off, just after the hurricane season. December came and went; we knew it was ‘now or never!’

“On New Year’s Eve 2015 we finally untied our lines from that Fort Lauderdale dock. This elusive dream has now materialized right in front of our eyes due to all of our blood sweat and tears. Not one dollar was given

then so it will be. Dream till that dream comes true and you will find yourself standing right where you have always dreamed of.”

## We heard you had some trouble with real life pirates?

“I now see pirates as people just stuck in between a rock and a hard place. They are usually just the extremely poor and desperate people of each region. To be frank, ‘pirates’ exist in every village around the

planet; the only difference is that out here on the sea they have boats.

“I just treat the dangerous places we sail like I would a dangerous forest; stay alert and aware, never put your guard down and sleep with one eye open. But really you can be the most prepared man but you still have to sleep sometime.

“When we were sailing up the Rio Dulce in Guatemala, we woke around midnight to the dog barking like crazy. Andrew and I jumped up to see what the commotion was all about. Our skiff (a small vessel with a 15-horse power outboard motor) was slowly floating away into the darkness. To the left of it was a dugout canoe paddling away. We retrieved the now motor-less skiff in the night, quietly pulled anchor and left. All in all, the poor fishermen got a \$3,000 motor, but no one was hurt. The same thing can happen in your back yard back in the states though.”

## Is there some aspect you’ve experienced in your trip thus far that has really stood out?

“The aspect of this voyage that stands out as unforeseen would have to be all of the fears and doubt you can have about a place before you go. Once you throw all of that into the wind, you find treasures and beauty that were hidden and unattainable with your old views. The greatest thing that this journey has taught me about myself is to just go see for yourself and make your own judgments through experience. You will find your bliss in those moments.”

*If you would like to follow the trip of Brandon Savory and his crew on the Cool Change, visit [SeaChangeLog.com](http://SeaChangeLog.com).*





# House of Hope readies for opening of domestic violence shelter

Despite the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, domestic violence continues to plague tribal people across the U.S.

A May 2016 report from the U.S. Department of Justice reported startling numbers; 84 percent of Native American and Alaskan Native women have experienced violence, while another 46 have experienced sexual violence. Of the more than 2,000 Native women surveyed in the report, 90 percent experienced violence at the hands of non-tribal members, who are notoriously hard to prosecute in tribal court systems due to jurisdictional issues.

In Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's domestic violence prevention program, the House of Hope, is one of several area organizations specifically dedicated to ending this scourge. For years its small staff has worked to get women and their families out of abusive situations.

In 2015 alone, the House of Hope recorded an 80 percent increase in victims served compared to previous years.

CPN House of Hope Director Tiffany Barrett explained that the rise may not simply be attributable to more instances of domestic violence occurring, but may rather be a result of increasing awareness in the community about the tribal program.

"In the past years we have been fortunate in funding to advertise on billboards, movie theaters and radio," noted Barrett. "We also work a great deal with fellow agencies in the community, so we get a lot of referrals,



*CPN House of Hope Director Tiffany Barrett inside the new shelter.*

especially when they run out of money."

Barrett also attributes the program's increase in victims served to its other community engagement efforts, from throwing t-shirts with the House of Hope name on them at local high school football games to its staff's attendance at trainings, job fairs and other community gatherings. Staff members also work closely with social support and law enforcement agencies in the tribal jurisdiction, including the CPN's FireLodge Tribal Youth Program, CPN WIC, the Tecumseh Police Department and the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Department.

This increase in "clients," the term used by HOH staff, compounded with the State of Oklahoma's limited capacity to house victims in existing shelters, resulted in the program's investment in its own emergency shelter through the utilization of grant

funds from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"It was always a goal of mine to open a shelter for the tribe. Opening ours will help take some burden off Project Safe in Shawnee as well. Until now they have been the only refuge for women in this area," said Barrett.

Victim advocates like Barrett, who operate in some of the most trying circumstances imaginable, have long discussed the possibility of their program running its own emergency shelter.

"It is an endeavor we do not take lightly and we are working hard to make sure it is one of the best shelters. We want to make the community, as well as the leadership and members of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, proud."

As the shelter's completion nears, the anxiety that many HOH staff

members feel when they're unable to place these victims in a shelter is reassuring. The lack of emergency shelters in central Oklahoma results in programs like the House of Hope having to find funding to place victims in local hotels, but the costs of those stays can quickly add up.

"There have been many instances we could not put someone in shelter," recalled Barrett. "More times than not, shelters are full in the metro area and most women, although fleeing, do not want to be more uprooted than they already are. This is especially true if they have children with them."

The new shelter run by her program, though serving a limited number of families, hopes to provide a transition point for those seeking to escape.

While the shelter will only serve women and children, Barrett is adamant that men also experiencing domestic violence are not out of the norm. She encourages anyone who finds themselves in such a situation to reach out to the tribal program regardless of sex or ethnicity, as her staff can find resources or partners who can help.

"The main point we drive home is our door is open to all victims of domestic violence. If you reach out, we will help you in the best way we can."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope Program can be reached by phone at 405-275-3176 or by visiting <http://cpn.news/cpnhoh>.

## Symbolism behind CPN tribal seal more than a casual decoration

Many Americans are familiar with the symbolism of the American flag, the thirteen red and white stripes standing for the original 13 colonies and the white stars on a field of blue symbolizing the 50 states in the union. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's seal has its own particular symbolism, with each piece standing for a significant piece of Potawatomi heritage and history.

Originally the Potawatomi were part of a larger group of tribal nations including the Chippewa and Ottawa, sometimes referred to as Odawa. Upon their moves out of Canada to the shores of the Great Lakes, the three peoples split into separate tribal nations. The Chippewa went west to Lake Superior, the Ottawa eastwards to Lake Huron and the Potawatomi moved south to the shores of Lake Michigan. Despite the diversions, the Potawatomi kept their original

role of protectors of the "council fire" of the three nations, resulting in their status as "Keepers of the Fire."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation are so called because after being removed to Kansas by the U.S., they elected to take the United States government's offer of citizenship and allotments in Indian Territory, or modern day Oklahoma.

Despite these removals and dual citizenship, the Potawatomi kept their traditions alive as Keepers of the Fire, a facet of their existence most evident in the CPN Tribal Seal.

The outer band of the seal is a circle signifying the sacred circle of life.

The colors of the tribal seal are white, yellow, red and black representing the four sacred directions and the four races of mankind.

The words across the top of the outer band give the name of the tribe, the



Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Written across the bottom of the outer band are the words, "People of the Place of the Fire," which provide the most common translation of the Algonquin word "Potawatomi."

Inside the seal is a fire comprised of seven logs representing the seven Potawatomi tribes in existence in the United States. The fire represents the Native pride burning fiercely within

the hearts of the Potawatomi people and their position as keepers of the council fire. Fire is the symbol of the warmth of life and friendship, and the wisdom of the council fire.

The crossed calumet and war club signify strength in both peace and in war and are each decorated with eagle feathers. On the calumet they signify the Potawatomi gratitude and reverence for the eagle as a spiritual messenger. The eagle feathers on the war club honor our veterans. This symbolism is reminiscent of traditional Native protocol, where a dropped eagle feather is often accorded the same reverence and honor as a fallen warrior on the battlefield.

Finally, the word below the fire, "Nishnabe" is the singular form of the Potawatomi word for "person," usually translated as "Indian."



## CPN receives college and career readiness funding

The CPN Department of Education received its first grant from the Office of Indian Education this fall. The Native Youth Community Project Competition is a highly competitive granting process focused on college and career readiness for middle and high school students.

Employees in the departments of education and self-governance put together a project called the *Wzhitawen* College and Career Readiness Program, which won more than \$650,000 over four years to help prepare youth in Pottawatomie County for future careers and educational opportunities.

“*Wzhitawen* means he or she prepares in Potawatomi. With this grant, we want students to feel prepared for whatever path they choose after high school,” CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek said. “We want to encourage students to evaluate their own strengths and passions to arrive at a postsecondary path that is right for them, and we will promote this mindset through career exploration, college visits and consistent mentorship from a culturally-relevant perspective.”

The project will focus on four public school districts in south Pottawatomie County, including Maud, Waukegan, Asher and Macomb. These schools were chosen because they have large Native American student populations and a severe lack of funding. The school districts only have a part-time counselor or none at all. For most middle and high schools, the counseling department

is typically tasked with preparing students for college and career.

“We performed a needs assessment based on interviews and data from the local community, county, state and nation. Through this analysis, we noticed a startling trend; students in this region were attending college but were not completing it within four years,” Zientek said. “We surmised that this showed a lack of preparation for what comes after high school. We ultimately selected these four schools because with the severe Oklahoma budget cuts we discovered that there was a gap in college and career readiness that we could provide resources to fill.”

To fill this gap in resources, college advisors at CPN will take students from grades eight to 11 on college visits, bring in advisors from a variety of colleges to assist those applying to colleges or picking out courses, and buy packages through ACT for age-appropriate practice tests.

“We are excited about implementing this tool to change the culture at Maud and expose our students to college and career readiness,” said Maud Principal Darrell Reid. “We’ve had successful programs that have only reached a portion of our students in the past, but we are thrilled that this program will reach all of our students and that advisors will be here weekly to work with our students.”

The need assessment also found that these school districts are technology starved. To combat this, the funding will also provide department of ed-



*Schools in Maud, Oklahoma received support from the CPN Education Department.*

ucation employees with 15 laptops, which will serve as a portable computer lab so students will have access to relevant digital resources and software. This also allows more flexibility for the college advisors, as they will not take away valuable computer time from other classes during school hours.

CPN already has two college and career advisors, Joshua Bullock and Channing Seikel, but the grant will allow another advisor to be hired in the third year of the program.

“I am most excited about the opportunity to get out in the community and meet students,” Seikel said. “This is going to be a wonderful program for students who do not have the resources for college and career readiness at their schools. I am thrilled to be able to be part of something like this for south Pottawatomie County students, schools and parents.”

During the summer months, a mentorship program will be created, training students to be mentors for younger students to keep the program going and create a readiness culture in south Pottawatomie County that lasts long after the short-term grant is finished.

“I think the program will help young adults by encouraging them to think about their future in a way that is beneficial and values who they are,” Bullock said. “In other words, students in this program should be able to envision themselves on a college campus working toward the goals and dreams they want to accomplish.”

To learn more about how the CPN Department of Education can assist you or your child, please contact them at [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org).

## Golf course renovation continues

The extremely mild fall, almost a continuation of late summer temperatures into November, have given the renovation of FireLake Golf Course a boost.

“We’ve been done with construction for a few months,” said FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser. “From now on, we’re in ‘grow in’ mode, letting our sod and grass grow in before the temperatures drop too much. Unfortunately Bermuda’s growing season is pretty much done.”

The course, clubhouse and driving range have all had complete overhauls in the past year. The new clubhouse is open, complete with a working pro-shop. It has even opened its two event spaces for holiday parties and other events.

For those familiar with the driving range’s tendency to turn into a water hazard at the slightest hint of rain, the new, undulating target greens on top of embankments are a stark change.

Sprigging, or seeding of Bermuda, continues around the course and on the new putting and chipping practice greens.

Much of the course’s design upgrades were drawn up by an ar-



*The tee box of hole number 12 looking east where construction crews cleared brush and trees that once blocked airflow to parts of the back nine holes.*

chitect, and were then implemented by the work crews from United Golf LLC. Mike Webb, owner of United Golf LLC, said the crews paid special attention to getting the course’s drainage situation fixed. The golf course, like much of the surrounding FireLake complex, sits in a flood plain and had a tendency to have standing water after strong rains.

Webb’s 20-person work crew developed the course’s new layout after it was plotted on a 3D map, giving United Golf workers a more realistic view of how their labors should develop. The construction phase, initially slated to only be nine holes, ended up taking eight months after it

was decided to put the front nine under renovation.

Webb also credited course Superintendent Derron Day for the progress made during the construction phase.

“Right now our staff is doing normal maintenance, from trimming trees, cleaning the creek and cutting the Bermuda grass that we allowed to grow over our new cart paths,” said Chesser. “Our superintendent, Derron Day, decided to let that Bermuda grow over the cart paths during the hot weather, and then we collect the sprigs we cut and put them down on spots of the course that are bare and still in need of growing.”

One of the more significant changes is hole number 12, where the trees and foliage that sat directly south of the tee box have been completely cut back.

“Our maintenance department cut that back to allow the back nine holes to receive more air flow. This should help with our growing and hole maintenance on holes 12-15.”

The course will also have one timely addition when golfers tee off in 2017; a new clock donated by the Grand Casino Hotel Resort.

Chesser said that, weather permitting, the back nine holes may be ready to play by CPN’s annual Family Reunion Festival in June 2017. The front nine, whose renovation began a few months after the back nine, should be open in late summer.

“It’s been a long process, and we know we have a lot of people asking about re-opening. We want to get it right the first time, have good grass down and a playable course from the get go. Until then, we encourage those wanting to see some of the progress to visit our pro-shop and new clubhouse.”





Bozho Nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

With the election and all of the accompanying bizarre behavior, what has happened at the Nation seems pretty tame. But it actually has been an unusual year at CPN so I'd like to take a look back at some of the highlights.

In January 2016, the CPN Cultural Heritage Center celebrated its 10th anniversary. Those ten years had been eventful, despite extremely difficult challenges stemming from a 2007 tornado and the March 2014 interior flooding caused by an uncapped City of Shawnee water main left from decades ago and mysteriously opened when it was supposed to be completely capped. The repairs have been long and difficult and I salute the efforts of CHC Director Mosteller Ph.D. and her staff in bringing the facility back to life. With many exhibits near completion, the goal is to have the museum entirely up and running by Family Festival 2017.

In February, the CPN Information and Technology Department helped Wanette Public Schools upgrade its Internet infrastructure. Tribal employees worked for

## Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

months to get the schools' new wireless Internet network up and running, including connecting iPads purchased by the school through a grant program for student use. Wanette Schools, which lies inside our tribe's historical jurisdiction, has a Native American student population of 47 percent and many ties to our tribe; whether through membership or employment. Wanette is a small and relatively poor community that can use our help to regain its former self-sustaining status.

On Super Bowl Sunday, FireLake Arena "made the big time" in national television coverage when it hosted the FireLake-Professional Bowlers Association Tournament of Champions. The event, which aired prior on ESPN to a record of nearly one million viewers, was the highest rated ESPN live broadcast of the 2015-16 season. The final capped off a week of qualifying tournaments hosted right across the parking lot at FireLake Bowling Center, while several longtime bowlers were inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort.

April 2016 marked the third year since the release of Wadasé Zhabwé, the American bald eagle rehabilitated by the CPN Eagle Aviary in 2013. Initially discovered with a wing injury in the wild, Wadasé was rehabbed and eventually released through a partnership between CPN, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Raptor View Research Institute and Sia: The Comanche Nation

Ethno-Ornithological Initiative.

May was a happy time at CPN, with the first class of Citizen Potawatomi graduates walking across the stage at St. Gregory's University through the use of scholarship funds paid for by the tribe. Megan Malouf, Ginger Johnson, TaRena Reece and Stacy Bennett were the first graduates to use the \$5 million CPN-SGU scholarship program signed in August 2015.

As it always does, the annual Family Reunion Festival fell on the last weekend of June with approximately 2,000 members in attendance. We had a wonderful time with many new and familiar faces seen around the tribe's FireLake complex. In election news, attorney Jennifer Lamirand was sworn in as the final member of the CPN Supreme Court, setting a precedent never achieved by the tribe's highest judicial branch. With Justice Lamirand's swearing in, the court was comprised entirely of Citizen Potawatomi Nation judges for the first time in its history.

In tribal legislative news, District 9's Paul Wesselhöft and District 12's Paul Schmidtkofer were re-elected to four year terms after facing no opposition.

Just one month later CPN hosted fellow Potawatomi tribes and first nations for the July 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. For four days, approximately 3,000 tribal mem-

bers from the Prairie Band Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians, Nottawaseep Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Forest County Potawatomi, Hannahville Indian Community, Walpole Island First Nation and the Wasauksing First Nation attended events taking place at the CPN's FireLake complex.

The *Journal Record* newspaper recognized Citizen Potawatomi Nation as one of Oklahoma's most charitable organizations at its August 2016 Beacon Awards. With more than 2,400 employees in its commercial enterprises and tribal government programs, we are the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. Many of our employees live and work in the communities near the tribal jurisdiction, meaning the presence of charitable services and civic engagement directly affects our families, friends and neighbors. For the most recent fiscal year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation donated more than \$2.9 million to the local community. Donations from CPN tribal car tag sales to Oklahoma schools were more than \$273,000 in this same period. Through the tribal rolls department, more than \$5 million in scholarships were awarded.

The tribe's impressive economic impact stood out again this year. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation had a \$513 million impact in Oklahoma during 2015 and directly supported 2,245 jobs

and paid \$82 million in wages and benefits. We indirectly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local economies by making purchases of more than \$193 million.

One of the bigger events in the state's Indian Country communities involved two Citizen Potawatomi tribal members in November. The AARP Indian Elders banquet recognized *Hownikan* founder Beverly Hughes and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps for their service to their tribe and Native Americans across the Oklahoma.

Be sure to keep our old Potawatomi tradition of telling family stories during the gatherings of Thanksgiving and Christmas. These stories are the most precious gift you can give the next generation. They are the basis for our tribal culture. We are all related to each other, and the stories passed from generation to generation are what bind us together as a tribe and family. Keep these stories close to heart throughout the holidays as you spend time with your loved ones. Our tribe is a force for positive change – both for our members and neighbors – and we will continue to do so in 2017.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your tribal chairman.

*Migwetch,*

John "Rocky" Barrett  
*Keweoge*  
"He leads them home."  
Tribal Chairman



Hello,

I would like to start off by wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Second off, as you may notice on page 9 of this paper, we have a new batch of high school and college graduates to congratulate. Amongst those is one person I would like to congratulate in particular, Iris Holloway, whose Potawatomi name is *Dokme Myew*.

Iris was a student at Manhat-

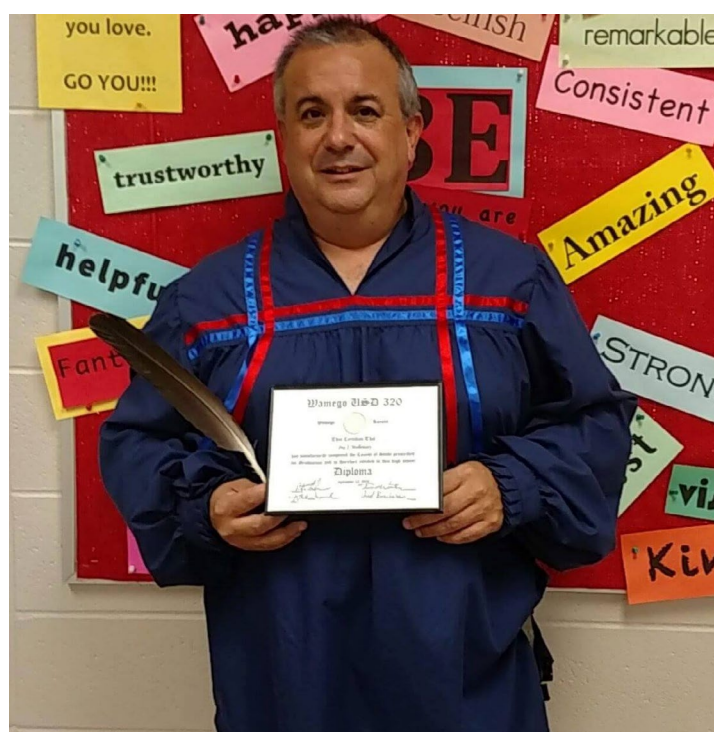
## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

tan High School in Manhattan, Kansas when, at the age of 16, he quit school. He explained to me that he didn't like school and once getting a job at that young age, decided he wouldn't go anymore and would just work.

He went back at age 18, but admitted he had trouble grasping what was being taught, so he again dropped out. He worked jobs for many years without his diploma, and as he said, he managed.

It was when he was taking care of his mother who was sick with cancer that Iris decided to try once more because he knew that it was the only thing she wanted, to see him finish his education and get his degree.

Despite being nervous about being told he was too old to go back and get his high school diploma because



*Iris Holloway*

he was middle aged, Iris reached out to an organization that was running online courses. He got a response, asked a few more questions, and took a long time to think

about what the consequences would be if he failed again.

Yet he pushed past these concerns and proudly reported to me in early November

that he finished all five of his qualifying classes and would be graduating!

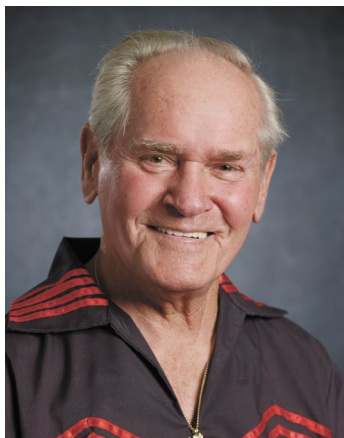
As Iris told me, all you have to do is want it bad enough. He was lucky enough to have a strong support system of family and friends who cheered him on. He noted that that no one is ever too old to learn and that even though at times it seem like the best option, he never gave up.

This is a great lesson for us all, and I want to congratulate Iris and all the graduates from our Nation.

*Migwetch,*

Linda Capps  
*Segenakwe*  
Vice-Chairman  
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[lcapps@potawatomi.org](mailto:lcapps@potawatomi.org)





## District 1 - Roy Slavin

*Bozho Nikan,*

In previous articles I have mentioned the CPN website, [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org), and what a wealth of information that is available here. In preparation for this article I went to the website. The first thing that caught my attention was a heading for an article titled "Citizen Potawatomi views from Standing Rock."

We have all read news articles about the DAPL, or Dakota Access Pipeline, and their intent to run two oil pipes under the Missouri River. The town's people there protested, fearing the pipe lines would leak and contaminate their drinking water. The river also supplies drinking water for millions of people downstream.

Wake up call! I live in Kansas City, and our drinking water also comes from the Missouri River. I don't know how far the contamination would carry downstream but I don't think I want oil in my drinking water or my iced tea.

History does repeat its self.

Throughout history Native Americans have had to fight to protect their lands for the future of their children and grandchildren. There are several ways one can help. Go online and search. Some key words are:

- Standing Rock
- Water protectors
- Oceti Sakowin Camp
- Sacred Ground Camp
- Red Warrior Camp

These folks are in direct need of winter supplies. Temperatures can be vicious in this area during winter months. This may not seem to be our fight but it could just as well be.

I have mentioned a program

in previous articles that our Nation has that I think presents a great opportunity for our young people. It is the Potawatomi Leadership Program. The PLP is a six-week leadership and education opportunity for young people. Application can be found on the CPN web site. <http://plp.potawatomi.org>.

It brings a group of promising young tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The leadership program strives to give interns an accurate perception of the CPN as a whole and cultivate talent

from within to ensure that younger generations are prepared for a role in the future governance of their tribe.

Check it out! It is an opportunity well worth your time.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not get e-mail from me occasionally or snail mail it is because I do not have your information and due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with that information. I may be reached at [Rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:Rslavin@potawatomi.org), or [rjslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rjslavin@gmail.com)

Roy Slavin  
*Netagtege* (Forever Planting)  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)



## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

*Bozho nikanek!*  
(Hello my friends)

**Breakneck speed and pacing oneself:** We write our columns a month out from their publication in print. It's crazy to consider what will have occurred between November 6, the day I am writing this, and the beginning of December, in particular that the presidential election will have been decided at long last. By the time you read this in print, moreover, the 2016 Districts 1 and 2 Fall Feast (with the help of the gracious and talented Leslie Deer, teaching traditional Potawatomi applique design) will have taken place – we are expecting close to 60 Potawatomi and their family members. And not only will countless turkeys have been stuffed, roasted, carved, and devoured on Thanksgiving Day, but we will have celebrated Native American Heritage Day the day after Thanksgiving and put a serious dent in holiday gift lists, hopefully. In the past I've felt that the last part of the calendar year speeds by, but this year in particular the speed seems to be breakneck. I hope everyone will pace themselves and do their best to stay physically and mentally healthy at what can be a stressful time.

**Meeting up at the NMAI Holiday Art Market:** After

all November's activity, I hope that, early in December, I will be able to meet up with a few Potawatomi at the National Museum of the American Indian Holiday Art Market, held December 3-4, 2016 at the NMAI on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Citizen Potawatomi artist *Pahphonee*, who makes exquisite pots in clay and bronze, will be there, as will Pokagon Potawatomi Jamie Brown and Jennie Brown, who weave traditional black ash baskets. Detailed information about the market in D.C., and about the market also taking place that same weekend at the American Indian Museum in Manhattan, is at <http://nmai.si.edu/artmarket/>. Attending the Art Market is a terrific way to speak to Native artists about their work and traditions. Please send me a note if you are thinking of attending and let's see if we can't visit some of the artisans and perhaps have coffee together.

**Language resources available:** Over Christmas break, if your children or grandchildren are getting restless or bored, you might consider introducing them to the Potawatomi language materials for children that are available at <https://www.potawatomi.org/lang/resources>. They'll find songs and games – including some Tetris-based games – that seem to be a fun way to acquire Potawatomi language skills. I have gotten good feedback on the children's resources, as well as on the adult online, self-paced language course, which is available via <https://www.potawatomi.org/lang>. As our excellent CPN Language

## JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT 2 MEETING

to learn CPN information, visit with fellow Potawatomi,  
and enjoy coffee, desserts, and all day breakfast

On arrival, please ask for the private meeting space  
reserved by CPN Rep. Eva Marie Carney

### JAN. 15TH, 2017 2 TO 4 PM

Perkins Bakery & Restaurant  
1502 Cape Coral Parkway,  
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Please RSVP with the names of attendees  
and their ages (if under 14) to [ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
or toll free at 866-961-6988.

Can't wait to see old friends and meet new ones!

Department tells us, "[our] language is a living breathing entity and can only continue to be such as long as we speak and use our language."

**Updated calendar on my website:** I recently was asked for the District 2 schedule for 2017. I've updated my website calendar with the most current information I have, including dates for the 2017 Family Festival, the list of honored families for 2017 (Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier), and the time frame and location for the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. Please note that I am still planning to visit Arkansas and Florida next year, and still hoping for some help with information on a good venue (church hall, private room at a local restaurant, etc.) so please help me if you can. You can visit my website at any time at [www.evamariecarney.com/calendar.php](http://www.evamariecarney.com/calendar.php) for the

most current information.

**RSVPs for the NMAI Archives Tour in February:** There are just 10 slots for the next scheduled visit to the Archives of the NMAI, housed at the NMAI Cultural Resources Center, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746. The tour goes from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 or 4 p.m. The plan will be to have lunch before at Sweet Dee's (a small lunch spot in the Resource Center Complex), starting at 12:30 p.m. (lunch will be my treat). During the tour we will view Potawatomi beadwork, weavings, household goods and more. Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

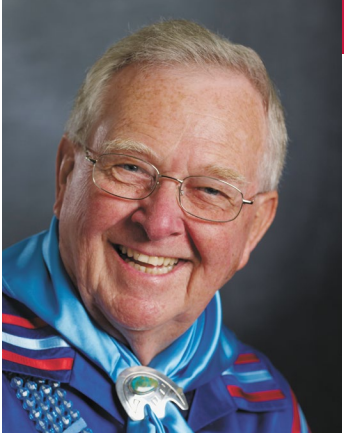
**Winter Stories:** Please accept my best wishes for the winter holidays to you and your families. If you did not receive a hard copy of the Winter Stories booklet I put

together last year and would like one, please send me a note with your full mailing address so that I can mail you a copy. Alternatively, I can send you an electronic copy if that would better suit. Because it includes some of our traditional stories that are told only in the winter time, this is a short-term offer!

*Migwetch*/thank you for the honor of representing you. Please continue to share your thoughts with me and to contact me for any assistance you might need.

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe*  
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### District 3 - Bob Whistler

*Bozho nikanek,*  
(Hello friends)

In last month's column, District 5 Legislator Gene Lambert and I both mentioned that we would host a joint meeting in Lubbock on November 5. Lubbock was a central city on the early cattle drives from south Texas in the 1800s to the buyers in the north each year. Based upon this history, Texas Tech University created the National Ranching Heritage Center on their campus very close to their football stadium. We held our meeting there in the Anderson room with a very nice attendance. Gene secured a copy of the presentation the chairman used at general council at this year's Family Festival which was shown. She also went around the room, and had each attendee give a bio on themselves and their family. At one table there were three generations of family in attendance. I briefly

spoke about the need to vote on November 8. Our eldest and wisest in attendance was George Melot, a descendant of one the initial families of our Nation that made the move from Kansas to Oklahoma. He was presented a blanket. The youngest was Lacie Welch and she was presented a saddle blanket that can be used as a lap blanket on cold nights. A family group from the Doris Mitchell family came in the same vehicle and their driver was Janet Coffee. She was selected to represent them since she physically drove the farthest. Gene had secured a number of gift cards and a drawing was held to give those away. There were several very happy winners.

We mentioned that Gene and I represented the Nation in Phoenix in late October at the National Congress of American Indians. At the congress, we met an attorney who will represent veterans on a pro bono basis on certain benefit appeals to the federal government on services or benefits that have been denied. I gave that information to the commander of our veterans group in Shawnee. He may include that information in his column. We also mentioned the situation going on in Standing Rock, North Dakota. I advised

that at the national congress representatives from Alaska as well as Michigan spoke up about how natural water had been compromised by pipeline spills on their land. Moreover, one tribe in Alaska currently cannot use the local water they had used for drinking, and now have it trucked in. While at the congress, I chose to speak, addressing a comment to the assistant director of Indian Health Services, saying that I was not only representing CPN, but also as the last president of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Texas. I advised that the number of Native Americans per 1,000 in the five county area that includes Houston, Texas has roughly 60,000 Native Americans from over 151 different tribes. Their percentage of the population per 1,000 is greater than that of Dallas, Chicago, New York City, or Los Angeles, yet Houston does not have an IHS clinic or facility for these Native Americans, yet those cities do. I stated that the federal government needs to make Houston the next city to receive any new IHS facility to be built.

Given that our weather this time of year can change dramatically and the National Ranching Heritage Center had many outdoor exhibits, the decision was made to have a craft program ready to use should we have a rainy day. Just after lunch we opted to have a beading choker class even though the weather was holding off a real rain. Several of our attendees were able to master this craft and had a completed choker in about 45 minutes. We saw many wearing their new choker as they left our meeting as well as selfies being taken.

Photos of the wisest, youngest, furthest travelled and some beading shots are being submitted for publication. Since several districts held meetings this same weekend, the *Hownikan* may not be able to show all that were sent in with our columns.

Between now and January 11, applications to run for chairman or to be a representative for districts 1, 2, 3 or 4 need to be submitted to the election board along with the appropriate fee. I will be submitting my application to be a candidate for another four year term. The position at times may look like it can be



*D4-5 Citizen Potawatomi teamed up to work on the beading.*



*Bob, Lacie Welch the meeting's youngest attendee and Gene.*



*Bob Whistler, wisest attendee George Melot and Gene Lambert.*

challenging. However, I find being your elected representative extremely rewarding. I am grateful each time I have been able to help an individual or bring something new and beneficial to the Nation.

In conversation with Gene, we both mentioned that we each have constituents that are either gravely ill or who have recently walked on. Richard Mabry in our district was diagnosed with ALS in July and I had the opportunity to visit him en route to our Lubbock meeting. Please keep him and all of the others in your prayers.

In closing this month I wish to emphasize a comment that I made at our meeting on November 5, that you should be proud that you are a Native American!

For your spouse who may not be a Native American, if you have had a child or children together, then they need to be just as proud, since jointly the two of you have created a new Potawatomi citizen. I am proud and honored to represent you. Please call or email me if you find you need help or information on the Nation.

Bama mine (later),

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He soars)  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
District 3 Representative  
112 Bedford Rd., Ste 116  
Bedford, TX 76022  
817-229-6271 Cell  
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[cpn3legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:cpn3legislator@yahoo.com)



*Bob leads a beading demonstration.*



*Bob, Janet Coffee who travelled (drove) furthest and Gene.*

Please call (405) 878-4833 to schedule a ride. Our transit program operates from 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM





## District 4 - Jon Boursaw

**Holiday greetings:** Peggy and I would like to sincerely wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that your holiday season is safe and only filled with joy and happiness. 2016 has been a very active and rewarding year for me and I look forward to 2017 with great anticipation and enthusiasm as I continue to foster the awareness of the history and presence of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Kansas and my endeavor to connect with and serve CPN members across the state. This coming year is also important to me as I have announced that I will seek re-election in 2017.

**Potawatomi Trail of Death Signs in Johnson County:** I have been informed that new signs marking the route of the Potawatomi Trail of Death through Johnson County, Kansas have been installed. Several months ago I had the opportunity to accompany the director of parks and recreation for Johnson County as we attempted to identify the most practical route our tribal ancestors may have traveled in the fall of 1838. This was not easy considering all of the housing developments found in Johnson County today. The route travels west from approximately 121<sup>st</sup> and State Line following the Santa Fe Trail until it arrives at Morse near 155<sup>th</sup> and Quivira, where it



*Jim Coder, wisest attendee at the Rossville meeting.*

turns south towards Heritage Park where there is a Trial of Death plaque. It then follows county and city roads from that point south through Springhill and then on to the county line.

**CPN Member makes it to the NBA:** CPN member Ron Baker, previously a star at Wichita State, is now a member of the New York Knicks in the NBA. We wish Ron all the best in his professional career. I've never really followed the Knicks before, but I guess I will now. Ron is from Scott City, Kansas and a descendant of the Navarre family.

**Kansas Historical Foundation:** On November 4 I had the honor of becoming a member of the Kansas Historical Foundation Board of Directors, which is the non-government organization affiliated with the Kansas State Historical Society and Museum. I look forward to representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and all Native Americans in Kansas in this role. At that meeting we were asked when and

how our families came to Kansas. Several told about their family arriving by covered wagon, horseback, the railroad, and more recently bus, car or plane. The board members present were somewhat taken back when I announced that my family has been in Kansas for 178 years and it was by an all expenses paid trip made possible by President Andrew Jackson, and we walked into Kansas..

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve as your legislative representative this past year and I am looking forward to the coming year with enthusiasm.

*Migwetch,*

Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*  
CPN District 4 Rep.  
(O) 785-861-7272  
(C) 785-608-1982  
2007 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66604  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.  
Thursday 3-5 p.m.  
Other times - Please call



*Alex Ortiz, youngest at the Garden City meeting.*



*Wanda Smith, wisest in attendance at Garden City.*



*Furthest travelled at Garden City, Mary Amos.*



## District 5 - Gene Lambert

*Bozho Nikanek,*

Another busy year went by in a flash. It's like watching a movie in your mind as we look forward to the Christmas holiday remembering those of the past. There are aspects of seeing family and friends, special sharing and gift giving, depending on how you were brought up, and the traditions that have

been passed on for generations.

We were young and excited about a visit from Santa Claus as I recall. Then there was the reminder of what Christmas was all about. The spiritual side was as heartwarming then as it is today when we realize the stories of what took place on Christmas Day. It was the birth of a baby Jesus.

How exciting having your first baby (or second and third) was. Can you just imagine for a moment how honored, emotional and overwhelmed the parents Mary and Joseph were at the idea of being given such a

gifted baby? Then to realize they would have to let this child be given to the world.

While in Lubbock, Texas in November I saw an older man holding a newborn in his arms. Of course I could not resist the temptation of charging over to see the brand new baby.

He was in his 50s and just had his first child. He shared his story to a stranger (me) with tears in his eyes as he never dreamed he would ever become a father. As he looked down at this wonderful gift I could feel the love from where I stood. The baby girl had to know she had a loving father. He gave her his grandmother's name.

This means we have a loving father.

If you have been blessed with children and remember the first moment you held your child, consider how the parents of Jesus must have felt.

A child is on the way and they searched for a place to give birth. These were the humble beginnings that would change the world. This is what we should remember.

This holiday please keep in mind it is this kind of love that keeps us alive and not just in existence.

By the grace of God, your beginning may be humble but you decide your future. You were given the gift to choose at birth.

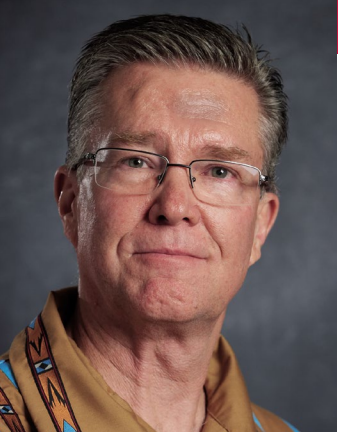
Thank you all for allowing me to share and be a small part of your lives as Citizen Potawatomi. Be strong, be brave, and above all be proud of who you are.

Please let me hear from you.

Have the very best of holidays.

Gene Lambert  
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Bozho nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving holiday and had an opportunity to celebrate Native American Heritage Month in some fashion or another. November was the month that became the “End of the Trail” so to speak for those ancestors that made the arduous journey from

District 6 - Rande K. Payne

their homeland to Kansas. Not exactly something to be celebrated but certainly worthy of remembrance and respect.

Representative Mark Johnson and I had our Potawatomi Heritage Festival in early November and since the deadline for this column was the day after the event I will be writing about it in January. There is simply too much to share. Therefore, additional time to gather thoughts, information and pictures is needed. I do want to thank all those that attended for making the event special. I woke up Monday morning physically exhausted, but the wheels in my head were running wild with ideas for next year. Now that we have

the first one under our belt, we believe we can make next year’s Festival even more enjoyable for everyone of all ages. I will say that children love the outdoors and leave it at that. Parents, you know what I’m talking about!

This is the year that was. When I start to think that there is no way this year is nearly gone, I look back at all of the events, all of the accomplishments, all of the beginnings, all of the endings and everything in between, I soon realize that there just isn’t much room for anything else in this block of time. So it is; a new year about to dawn.

I’m thankful for the many blessings in my life over the

last year. I wouldn’t change a thing. My cup is full. I am honored to serve as your Representative, and, of all the things I do, serving our great nation is one of my greatest sources of fulfillment.

We are entering the winter season and I would encourage you to stay warm by holding your loved ones near. Find forgiveness, be bold and generous with love, help someone less fortunate than yourself and seek wisdom for there you will find warmth, happiness and joy.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Again, I consider it a privilege and an honor to serve as your Representative. Thank you for

your support and encouragement. What a blessing you all are!

Igwien. (heartfelt thank you)

Wisdom from the Word: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9: 6

Bama pi,

Rande K. Payne  
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Bozho,

Gone but not forgotten

In 2009 I had the great opportunity to connect with another member, Mr. Jerry Whitehead. After getting to know Jerry, he shared with me that he was related to several Potawatomi chiefs – a bold proclamation! Jerry was a businessman and worked in the restaurant supply business for a number of years. I seem to remember that his primary clients were

District 8 - Dave Carney

franchise Mexican eateries, like Azteca.

Jerry’s true passion and interests were all things Potawatomi, and he made a point to attend every meeting and was especially interested in any crafts of physical projects that were being made. He jumped into making hand drums, and took great pride in decorating them with unique painted designs. Jerry built a great collapsible wooden stand for the “big drum” for the district with little direction and just a few measurements. Jerry made hand fans, beaded chokers and just about any Potawatomi-related project.

Jerry became ill with pancreatic cancer and fought a very tough battle against it. He walked on in April 2012 and his many projects were

displayed at the celebration of his life, recognized by his Potawatomi name, Ogema Ksezo.

Jerry was cremated and his ashes will eventually be sent to the Nation, where a niche wall structure will be created to be a final resting place for many Potawatomi. The chairman and vice-chairman have been planning this project for some time, and I believe it will be ready sometime in 2017.

Jerry’s daughter contacted me, looking for information on Chief Ogema’s headdress. This was a project that Jerry had talked about his desire to recreate it. Asking the folks at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center was a quick way to get information, thought to be lost. Mr Blake Norton of the CHC wrote:

“I believe the headman Ms. Whitehead is looking for is Misenogomaw [To float or rest like a fish], abbreviated Gomo. He was also known by the probable nickname Matchiwokama [Big Chief]. This may be the source of the Chief Ogama reference. He was a headman among the Muskodan or Illinois Potawatomi. Phonetic and abbreviated misspellings have led people to mispronounce his name. Records in our collection indicate that Gomo is an ancestor to John Whitehead. Unfortunately, no images of Gomo exist. However, we do have an image of his brother Sunawchewome [Swift Water] aka Pecheco who assumed leadership upon Gomo’s passing.

“I am unaware of any notoriety surrounding the headdress of Gomo. Headwear

varied during this time, so I am not sure what type of headdress Mr. Whitehead was interested in replicating”.

So Jerry, was indeed related to Potawatomi chiefs. His name, given to him by Chairman Barrett (Ogema Ksezo) means Chief or leader that hides it – a perfect name description of a humble guy. Will more information about this headdress come to light in the future?

Please have a blessed Christmas and a safe New Years’ celebration.

Migwetch,

Dave Carney/Kagasghi  
[dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org)  
360-259-4027

# HOLIDAY SALE

1109 Gordon Cooper Dr  
405-878-8770

Bring in your personalized items for embroidering starting at \$9.00!

Buy the whole set \$16.00  
other color options available

6m - Youth XL \$12.00

Men's sweatshirts starting at \$15.00

3/4 sleeve options starting at \$19.00

Women's sweaters \$24.00





## District 11 - Lisa Kraft

### The Hunt

When I think of the fall, I think of giving thanks and pumpkin-flavored everything. Lucky for us here in Oklahoma, there is a Braum's Dairy Store around every corner much like Dairy Queen's in Texas. Fall hasn't come quick enough for me this year; it has been hot here up until today (Nov. 3). I am blessed to get to see the changing of the seasons living out in the country. Cooler weather also brings on hunting season. From my windows, I watch the geese coming in over the lake, ducks on our ponds, deer and turkey across our hay fields and herds of wild pigs tearing up the earth in their wake.

Just this overcast morning, the dogs have run off after a pack of coyotes and I can hear them barking in the distance. We are also fortunate to live near two large game preserves that raise elk. To hear their haunting bugles on a cool morning like today transports me to states far away from Oklahoma.

Much to my mother's dismay, I have grown to cook with deer meat much more often than even our longhorn beef that we raise. I wasn't raised to hunt, but had a grandfather that lived for both deer and duck seasons. My mother also had to live through the smell of frying squirrel for breakfast, a favorite of my grandfather; no wonder she doesn't like wild meat.



*Justin and his deer.*

My son has grown up in a hunting household and knows the responsibility of filling the freezer with meat for another year. He knows how to process a deer and the grueling work of cutting up the meat for grinding. We mix our deer meat with seasoned wild hog meat and freeze them into small dinner size portions.

Living on a ranch teaming with wildlife, our family has purchased lifetime hunting licenses from the State of Oklahoma. There are many other options here in the state. If you live in Oklahoma and are over 65, the state offers a lifetime hunting and fishing license less than what we paid. For people 18-64, the state offers a combination (hunting and fishing) five year license for \$148. Of course, all Oklahoma hunting and fishing regulations have to be followed as to limits and methods. An annual deer hunting license is \$25 and required in Oklahoma, unless exempt. Each buck and doe tag is about \$20 if you are over 18 and \$10 if younger. Wild hogs and coyotes are open season on private land. Visit the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for more information at <http://wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/>.

In talking with fellow legislator David Barrett and our tribal attorney Greg Quinlan about our tribe issuing hunting and fishing permits here in Oklahoma, let me say enthusiasm is high. If we find ourselves in a better relationship with the state governor next year, I would propose legislation to formulate a CPN Parks and Recreation Department that can issue tribal members annual hunting and fishing permits, much like the Cherokee Nation does for its members.

We would have to sign a hunting and fishing compact with the State of Oklahoma to get this done. Timing is everything and because we are in litigation with Governor Fallin, chances of compacting may be slim.

The *Menominee Tribe of Indians v. United States* Supreme Court decision established that the hunting and fishing rights of federally-recognized Indian tribes differ and must be weighed against treaty history and negotiated on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has the legal grounds to assert its hunting and fishing rights in Oklahoma and pursue a compact with the State of Oklahoma. We would need to adopt the necessary ordinances and internal capacity to administer a program of this nature, if our tribal legislature was in agreement.

As a sovereign government in Oklahoma, it is in our best interest to see the state's natural resources effectively managed as the fish and animals are our shared resources. Many of us recognize the importance of wildlife conservation and protection. It is also important, to me, that our youth learn the skills to provide food for their families and build their self-worth and confidence. For my son, who is 13, he knows he has literally been putting food on our table for years. He enjoys hunting, but don't ask him if he likes weeding the garden or harvesting crops for canning. Other than eating them, he would probably choose to never snap another green bean in his lifetime.

What I propose is that our legislature consider research to formulate a bill that would result in a hunting and fishing compact with the State of Oklahoma, create a parks and recreation department, adopt the appropriate ordinance, and be on the way to issuing our Oklahoma members annual hunting and fishing licenses beginning in 2017.

Our tribe would assume the administrative costs and responsibility of issuing tribal-state dual jurisdiction licenses on behalf of both governments through a state compact using the Oklahoma existing internet point of sale system. Our Nation would then receive a reduced annual amount owed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, according to the provisions of our compact, for each license it issues to our members.

Like the Cherokee Nation Compact, a cluster of annual



*Conrad and his coyote.*



*Justin and his boar.*

combination license and tags would be purchased from the state at a reduced amount and then offered to our members on a first-come first-serve basis at no cost to them. The Cherokee is assessed \$2 per license rather than the \$25 fee for non-members. The Cherokee Nation also has a compact provision where each person under 16 is allowed one deer and one turkey tag without a fee paid to the state.

Our tribe would have to provide identifiable personal information for each license it issues such as date of birth, address and proof of hunter safety training or acknowledgment that hunting with an experience hunter such as a parent or grandparent if under 18. Tribal members who are gifted annual combination (hunting and fishing) licenses would have to follow state regulatory requirements on season, limits, and method. With an annual license, each member would also receive one deer and one free turkey tag at no cost.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season. Oh, and one last thing, share that last piece of

pumpkin pie with someone you love.

**Disclaimer:** I want to apologize to those of you who will be offended by the hunting images. Hunting is a way of life for my family. I must admit; I was a card-carrying PETA member for the 12 years I was a vegetarian. As in my youth, I continue to stand for the liberation of wild animals forced to perform in circuses and the rights to humane treatment of animals in factory farms. I also protest the wide scale slaughter of sharks and whales in International waters and puppy mills that churn out millions of unwanted dogs who end up dead, neglected and abused. What I can attest to here in Oklahoma, is that coyotes hunt in packs and eat our calves in the winter, the deer that is pictured was suffering from neck wounds that looked to be a run in with a pack of abandoned dogs (which are turned out in the country to fend for themselves—4 of my 7 dogs came to my farm on death's door), and the wild hogs tear up our crops, wheat fields and eat the fawn. They also eat countless quail and other birds that nest on the ground.





Gwendolyn P. Bettig

Gwendolyn (Gwen) P. Bettig (née Lewis), age 78, of Bolingbrook, Illinois, passed away at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn on Oct. 17, 2016.

Gwen was born on Aug. 3, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois.

Gwen married the love of her life, Donald H. Bettig in 1964. They settled down in Bolingbrook to raise their three children; Scott, Allen, and Teri. Gwen worked as a nurse for many years and began working at Operation Christmas in 1979.

Gwen was a devoted and kind mother, was proud of her family. She loved hosting holidays and having family get-togethers. She would spend hours, or even days, preparing for these events.

Gwen was the beloved wife of Donald H. Bettig; devoted mother of Scott D. Bettig and his wife Dee Bettig, Allen K. Bettig and his husband CJ Chen, and Teri K. Bettig and her husband Ken Thompson; the loving grandmother of Ashley Bettig, Jennifer Bettig, Jessica Thompson, Shawn Bettig, and Samantha Thompson; great-grandchildren Jayden, MaKenzie, Mason, and Jackson. She is also survived by her four sisters and four brothers as well as many nieces and nephews.



Edward Gene Slippey

Edward (Ed) Gene Slippey, 68, died Sept. 20, 2016 at Advanced Care Hospital in Boise of cancer. He was born Nov. 1, 1948 to Fred and Stella

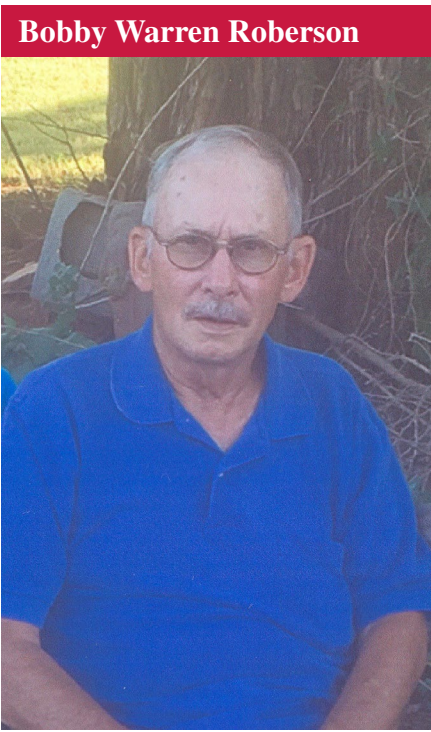
Baird Slippey in Susanville, California.

Ed served four years in the Army and 19 years in the National Guard. In 1984, he married Mary Ann Mabus. He worked as grounds keeper in California.

In 2010, he moved to Idaho Falls and into the Elk Creek Apartment where he became friends with everyone. He made coffee in the mornings and was a bingo caller. His dog, Cheeko, was always with him. Fishing and chatting with the residents at the apartment was his enjoyment. He never met a person he did not know.

Ed is survived by daughters: Shauna and Billy Offult, Ann Margret Smith, Krystal and Josh Willes, April Marie Clark, DoriLyn and Micheal Brock; Siblings: Ray Pritchett, Mary Kathryn Smith, Charlie Slippey; 20 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by parents, wife, brother: Art; sister and brother-in-law: Karen and Carol Hale.



Bobby Warren Roberson

Bobby Warren Roberson, 69, of Harrah, Oklahoma, was born May 30, 1947, in Oklahoma City. He was the son of Leon Admiral & Cleta Inez (Paine) Roberson. He left this life on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016, in Harrah.

Bobby graduated from Harrah High School and Oklahoma State University. He married Linda Carol Sitton on May, 30, 1970, in Harrah. He retired from OG&E, where he was an inspector.

Bobby proudly served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He was a

member of the First Baptist Church in Harrah. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, welding, gardening and spending time with his grandkids.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents; brother: Ronnie Roberson.

Survivors include his wife: Linda Roberson of Harrah; sons: James Reed Roberson of Harrah and Jeffrey Michael Roberson of Blanchard, Oklahoma; sisters: Marcella Johnson of Richardson, Texas, Jessie Jeffers of Midwest City, Oklahoma, Evelyn Garton of Edmond, Oklahoma, Sher-

ry Effinger of Harrah and Kelly Wood of Harrah; grandchildren: Jacob and Shiloh Roberson of Blanchard, Oklahoma; and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held on Oct. 18, 2016, at the First Baptist Church in Harrah. Interment followed at Memory Lane Cemetery in Harrah. Services were under direction of Smith~Parks Funeral Service in Harrah.

A guest book is available to share your memories online. Please visit: [www.smithparks.com](http://www.smithparks.com)

# A Funeral Prayer

*Hau ndenwémagnek*  
Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*  
We have come here today

*Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma*  
To lay our brother to rest

*Ngom she épam sét ode*  
Today he walks

*Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek*  
Among those who have passed on

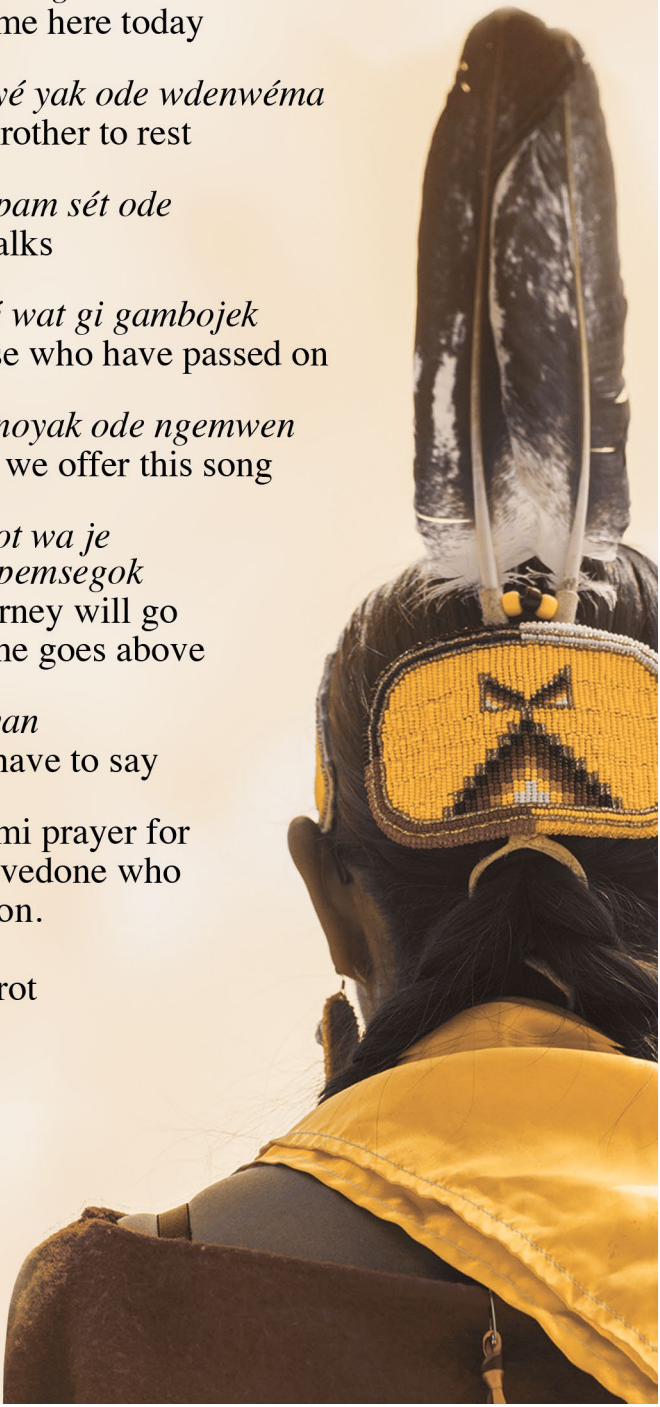
*I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen*  
That is why we offer this song

*Émno shketot wa je*  
*zhyat ibe shpemsegok*  
That his journey will go  
well where he goes above

*Iw énaj moyan*  
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for  
a specific lovedone who  
has walked on.

By Don Perrot



## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [CClark@Potawatomi.org](mailto:CClark@Potawatomi.org).

### Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org).